

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 2, through page 6, line 11 of the specification with the paragraph that begins with "FIGURE 1 is perspective view..." as follows:

-- FIGURE 1 is perspective view of a putter 10 which comprises a putter head 12 connected to a proximate end of a shaft 14. The distal end of shaft 14 includes a grip connected to the shaft to enable a user to grip the putter 10 securely. Putter head 12 comprises a top face 16, a toe face 18, and a back face 20. Referring to figures 2 and 3, putter head 12 also comprises a heel face 22, a front face 24, and sole face 26. As can be seen in each of FIGURES 1, 2, and 3, the back face 20 may include in certain embodiments a longitudinal slot 28 which may extend from heel face 22 to toe face 18. Slot 28 may be placed roughly in the vertical center of back face 20 and may be on the order of one-half to three-quarter ~~one~~ inch in width measured along the appropriate outer face. Alternatively, the placement of slot 28 could be dependent on the width of lower rail 23 where the width of lower rail 23 is determined as a function of the angle of back face 20 relative to sole face 26. A greater angle may result in a wider lower rail 23 while a smaller angle may result in a relatively less wide lower rail 23. In one embodiment, the vertical dimension of lower rail 23 ranges from one-eighth to one-quarter inch (one-quarter inch is the maximum allowed by the USGA). The midpoint of lower rail 23 could be determined by the formula:  $[21.336 \text{ millimeters} \times (1 - \cos(\text{angle between sole face 26 and back face 20}))]$  where the distance in millimeters is a vertical measurement from sole face 26 to where the distance intersects back face 20. In this embodiment, the lower rail 23 is positioned in such a manner that the impacted point of a standard golf ball is substantially centered on lower rail 23. In other embodiments, the position ~~calculation~~ of the ~~width~~ of lower rail 23 should allow the center of the impacted area of a ball to be nearly centered between lower rail 23 and upper rail 25 while not touching the back of slot 28. Alternatively, upper rail 25 could be eliminated or positioned in such a manner that in a normal chipping stroke a golf ball would not contact upper rail 25. Slot 28 is optional and does not substantially alter the way the putter 10 performs. However, as will be discussed herein, the back face 20 may be used by a highly skilled player to strike a golf ball using a reverse swing. Back face 20 could have alternate configurations. For example, the back face 20 might comprise a curved convex surface extending from

top face 16 to a bevel 32 at the trailing edge of a sole face 26. Other forms of slots or flanges may also be used. The top face 16 may comprise an alignment mark 17 disposed in substantially the center of putter head 12 that indicates to a user the optimum striking point on front face 24. --

Please add the following new paragraph at page 9, line 6 of the specification right before the paragraph at page 9, line 6 through page 9, line 18, that begins "FIGURE 8 illustrates":

-- Putter head 12 may be formed from other suitable materials than those noted above, such as zirconium. --